



SOCIETY OF SMUGGLERS

2017 RIGHT BANK RED

VINTAGE: Ninth

COMPOSITION: 46% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Malbec

APPELLATION: Coombsville AVA, Napa Valley

VINEYARD: Caldwell Vineyard Estate, Established 1981

OPTIMAL DRINKING PERIOD: 2–6 Years

PRODUCTION: 324 Cases

PRICE: \$95 / 750ml SOS Only

BLOCK: Caldwell 15, 16, 17, 18

YIELD: 3.0 Tons per Acre on Average

AVERAGE VINE AGE: 23 Years

GRAPE VARIETIES: See Composition Section

CLONES: Multiple

ROOTSTOCK: Multiple

HARVEST DATES: Multiple

VINTAGE SUMMARY: The 2017 growing season started with a wet winter and early spring unprecedented in recent history, closer in relation to 1995, 1998, and 2011. The mild spring conditions extended flowering, and provided limited fruit shatter and good set. High temperatures for a few days in early and mid-July accelerated veraison in reds, and pushed whites into accelerated sugar accumulation. Three pre-veraison heat spikes early in June and July started early phenolic precursor production and shifted hormonal pressures in our vines to concentrate on ripening fruit early. Two heat spikes in late August and early September ravaged young vine blocks, but had very little effect on older vines and those with larger canopies providing better protection from the sun. Ultimately, 2017 will be characterized as a ripe, opulent, and very tannic year with a relatively short growing season due to the tragic fires that began on October 8th.

FERMENTATION: Stainless and French Oak Barrels

YEAST: Multiple

ML BACTERIA: Multiple

WOOD ORIGIN: New French Oak (Jupilles, Bercé)

AGING: 100% French Oak, 77% New, for 18 Months

FINING: None

FILTERING: Filtered

ALCOHOL: 14.8%

BOTTLED ON: May 14, 2019

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES: In the 2017 lineup from Caldwell, the Right Bank stands unique in its abundant supply of sweet baking spices on the nose, supported by plum fruits, boysenberry compote, and a wet concrete minerality. In contrast to its Left Bank brother, the Right Bank palate is incredibly open-knit. The tannins are soft and luxurious throughout, while finishing with weighty, rich, ripe dark berry fruits.